THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 5% cut in the Central Plan Expenditure (excluding externally aided projects) is expected to lead to a saving of about Rs. 1800 crores. This amount to 0.16% of GDP at market prices in 1995-96. At the current level of GDP the proportion would be even lower.

Autonomy to Navaratnas

536. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant full autonomy to the Navaratnas among public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the areas of management in respect of which such autonomy is proposed to be granted;

(c) whether these enterprises are proposed to be taken out of the purview of Government vigilance, audit and investigating agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government have, subject to certain guidelines and stipulations, granted enhanced financial, functional and operational autonomy to Navaratna PSUs inter-alia to incur capital expenditure, to enter into joint ventures, to set up strategic and technological alliances, to raise funds from capital markets, to formulate and implement the schemes of human resources management etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Industrial policy for the North-eastern region

537. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering formulation of a separate Industrial Policy for the north-eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be arrived at in this regard;

(d) the details of benefits expected from this policy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under active consideration of the Government and will be announced very soon.

Review of power projects by FIPB

538. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major power projects pending for review before Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date since pending;

(c) the number of projects cleared by the Board so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared by the Board?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) At present, no proposal relating to power projects is before the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for review. However, the following proposals

are awaiting the consideration/decision of the FIPB.

Name of the Project	Location
1. 500 MW from M/s. Balargarh Power Co. Ltd. at a project cost of Rs. 2059 crores.	Balargarh, West Bengal
2. 170 MW Naphtha based Power Project from M/s. Smith Cogeneration (I) Pvt. Ltd. at a Project cost of Rs. 684 crores.	Bengare, Mangalore, Karnataka

(c) FIPB has so far approved around eighty two proposals relating to power projects.

(d) there is a continued effort to clear all such proposals as per the guidelines.

Setting up of Scope

539. SHRI K.M. SAIFULIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when was SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises) was set up and with what objectives;

(b) what was the estimated cost of the project and by what time it was targeted to be completed; and

(c) the present status of the project and the expenditure incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) was set up in 1970 as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 with the following objectives.

"SCOPE look upon its tasks as both internal and external to the public sector. Internally, it would endeavour to assist the public sector in such ways as would help to improve its total performance. Externally, it would help to improve its total boundary role in conveying such information and advice to the community and the Government as would generally help the public sector in its role."

(b) and (c) SCOPE is not a project but an institution. The question of a project cost and expenditure therefore, does not arise.

Technological upgradation of MUL

540. SHRI JALAUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Suzuki Motor Co. (SMC) has frozen all work on technological upgradation of the existing Maruti Udyog Ltd. models; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) is a non-Government Company. However, as per MUL, there is no communication from Suzuki Motor Corporation in this regard.

Strength of Biecco Lawrie Company Ltd. and IBP Co. Ltd.

541. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Biecco Lawrie Company Ltd. has twenty five officers against 1300 workmen before reference to B.I.F.R. and present strength of officers is 165 as against 650 workmen;

(b) whether officers of Biecco Lawrie Company Ltd. are getting equal salary at par with the officers of I.B.P. Company Ltd. and Workmen of Biecco Lawrie Company Ltd. are getting less salary in comparison to workmen of I.B.P. Company Ltd.;

(c) if so, the reasons for discriminatory treatment; and

(d) whether Government will advise/direct for payment of same wages to workers to Biecco Lawrie Company Ltd. at par with I.B.P. workers and also